UNMC High School Alliance
A Health Sciences Enrichment Program for High School Students

ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017

2016-2017 marks the beginning of the 7th year for the UNMC High School Alliance
Message from the Program Coordinator

On behalf of the UNMC High School Alliance program, it is a pleasure to provide this annual report. Whether you are a community partner, an alumni member of the program, a current student, a parent, or a UNMC employee, we invite you to read about the accomplishments our program has achieved over the past seven years.

Our primary mission continues to immerse highly motivated, secondary students from varying educational and socioeconomic backgrounds into an environment which will introduce them to health professions leading to a more diverse Nebraska workforce.

As the program coordinator for the UNMC High School Alliance, it is a privilege for me to work with a staff of outstanding and dedicated professionals in the areas of education and healthcare. Together we are able to create new and innovative ways to inspire high school students to become the next generation of world-renown health care professionals here at UNMC, Nebraska Medicine, and beyond.

The High School Alliance remains grateful to The Sherwood Foundation for its continued support of the program, the Omaha Public Schools for the certified high school teachers, the UNMC faculty, staff, and students who give their time to the program, all of the participating school districts who share their talented and fantastic students with us, and our alumni who make this program shine.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The UNMC High School Alliance (HSA) is a program designed and implemented through UNMC as an enrichment program to immerse highly motivated, secondary students from varying educational and socioeconomic backgrounds into an environment that will introduce them to health professions leading to a more diverse Nebraska workforce.

Specific program goals include:

• A rigorous and challenging curriculum that motivates the High School Alliance students to pursue a health profession throughout college and into their careers.

• Students participating in the UNMC HSA will:
  ° Learn, practice, and demonstrate cooperation and teambuilding while being exposed to the interdisciplinary aspects of health professions as well as how those professions interact to provide quality patient care.
  ° Learn and subscribe to the values of health care professionalism.

• The UNMC HSA will build partnerships with local and regional educational institutions and the community to align educational resources for its students from high school to undergraduate school to professional school.

HIGHLIGHTS AND FUTURE PROGRAMMING

• A new class focusing on the biology and prevention of cancer will be offered in the fall semester of 2017.

• The opportunity for a select group of juniors will continue to be available to return for a second year of the program.

• The UNMC professional and graduate students continue to facilitate the Lunch and Learn series with the high school alliance students.

• The UNMC professional and graduate students continue to assist with the hands-on classroom and laboratory activities as well as teaching content in select classes.

• Two new Omaha Public Schools teachers – Terri Gulick and Kevin Scott – joined the program in 2016-2017.

• The UNMC HOSA chapter continues to paint the windows in the pediatric unit among other volunteer opportunities, and will compete at the State HOSA Conference.

• The new Urban Health Opportunities Program (UHOP) partnership with the University of Nebraska Omaha gives UNMC High School Alliance students a pathway to medical school.
95% PROGRAM COMPLETION RATE
- At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 363 students have completed the program
- 5% did not complete the program because they either graduated from high school early or withdrew from the program for personal reasons

35% of graduated students qualified for free and reduced lunch

COLLEGE BOUND

74% of college attendees remain in Nebraska

52% attend the University of Nebraska system (Omaha, Lincoln or Kearney)
22% attend college out of state
4% are not attending college or did not respond to our inquiries
381 enrolled students

2010-2011 Class
2011-2012 Class
2012-2013 Class
2013-2014 Class
2014-2015 Class
2015-2016 Class
2016-2017 Class

FIELD OF STUDY

75% of students who have completed the program indicate they are pursuing health STEM majors in college

67 Biology, Microbiology, Pre-Med
27 Nursing, Pre-Nursing
20 Chemistry, Pre-Pharmacy
14 Bioengineering, Bioinformatics, Biophysics, Biotechnology
79 Other health care related majors i.e. Exercise Science, Public Health, Psychology, Animal Health
42 Non-health care related majors i.e. Business, Journalism, International Studies, Languages
25 Undeclared or undecided majors, not attending college, entered the workforce, or unknown
LOCAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Dr. Geoff Talmon and Heidi Kaschke presented at the National Consortium of Health Science Educators conference in Louisville, Kentucky in October 2016
- Michelle Xiao, (UNMC High School Alliance Class of 2015) is one of the authors on a publication for the *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters* and for her work on the design and synthesis of a new piperidone grafted acetylcholinesterase inhibitor.
- Noah Fant (UNMC High School Alliance Class of 2016) and University of Iowa student athlete, visited campus in October 2016 and spoke to current students about his experience in the High School Alliance
- Julissa Bakken (UNMC HSA Class of 2016), Nebraska HOSA President, and University of Nebraska Lincoln student; Hank Anderson (UNMC HSA Class of 2016) and University of Nebraska Lincoln Student; Scott Brown (UNMC HSA Class of 2014 and Stellar Senior Class of 2015) and University of California at Los Angeles student; Courtney Smith (UNMC HSA Class of 2014 and Stellar Senior Class of 2015) and Brigham Young University student spoke to the current students in December 2016 about their High School Alliance and college experiences.
- The UNMC High School Alliance was featured in the NU Foundation publication “Pride of Place” during the summer of 2016.

Feedback from Students and Parents

“I think everything was excellent. For being in high school, we were all treated like young adults, and I am so happy to have been in the program. It is an amazing opportunity that I never thought would happen to me. I have met great students, adults, and professionals. The content is amazing and I feel like I am ready for college. I will be light years ahead of some of my friends. Thank you to everyone who makes the High School Alliance happen.”

*Student from the Class of 2016*

“I was in awe of this program and how much it did for my student. There was a marked improvement in my student’s writing skills. I was amazed at graduation how much the teachers and staff really knew my student and how much they truly cared for all of the students. Thank you for such a wonderful program.”

*A parent of a student from the Class of 2016*

“This far exceeded any of our expectations. Thank you to all who were involved! It was an amazing year for our student.”

*A parent of a student from the Class of 2016*

“Overall, I loved what this program did for me. It prepared me and taught me at the same time. This is a challenging program, and everything should stay the way it is.”

*Student from the Class of 2016*

“The UNMC High School Alliance has done an incredible job, and I feel extremely lucky to have been a part of it. The shadowing experiences, the classes, the friends and the teachers have all been an invaluable addition to my education.”

*Student from the Class of 2016*
Feedback from Alumni

“The UNMC Alliance challenged me in ways that my high school classes never could. Before undergrad I already knew how to read and evaluate primary and secondary literature sources. The study and time management skills that I acquired during the UNMC High School Alliance made my transition into undergrad seem easy. I never had to pull all-nighters in college because I knew how to allot time to work on a long-term research or review paper. Of course, I learned this the hard way while I was in the High School Alliance, but that experience only made me stronger as a student. Most of all, the High School Alliance pushed me as a student and made me realize that I could accomplish so much more than I thought was possible.”

Andrea Bierman  
UNMC High School Alliance Class of 2012  
(Millard North High School)  
Hastings College Class of 2016  
UNMC College of Medicine Class of 2020

“I want to thank you for all you have done to help me progress in school and as a person. I can say without absolutely any doubt that you have changed my life in a tremendous way. You have given me the best possible platform to launch myself into a successful future.”

Noah Fant  
UNMC High School Alliance Class of 2016  
(Omaha South High School)  
University of Iowa Class of 2020

“The entire HSA staff have been incredible in helping me over the last year by giving me new experiences I would not have otherwise been exposed to in a traditional high school setting. You informed me about various opportunities such as this one (UHOP). I am so excited to be a part of this program over the next four years, and upon successful completion, to attend UNMC thereafter. Some of the program requirements/ opportunities include monthly meetings with a pre-med advisor, being on a pre-med committee, various classes/seminars at UNO and UNMC during the summers, MCAT tutoring, financial aid, etc. in order to help me stay on track to become a physician. I feel incredibly lucky to have been given this opportunity, I won’t take it for granted. I plan to keep the High School Alliance updated on my progress over the next four years! Thank you again, you are truly making a difference in your students’ lives.”

Elias Witte  
UNMC High School Alliance Class of 2016  
(Omaha Westside High School)  
University of Nebraska at Omaha Class of 2020

“Thank you for the High School Alliance. I had such a great experience. Thank you for writing letters of recommendation for me as well. I ended up getting three scholarships!”

Savannah Meads  
UNMC High School Alliance Class of 2016  
(Chanute High School)  
Metropolitan Community College Class of 2018
Thank You

EXTRA ORDINARY SUPPORT
Special Thanks to The Sherwood Foundation
and the Omaha Public Schools

THANK YOU TO
UNMC Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health Professions,
Public Health, Pharmacy, Munroe Meyer Institute, and the
Departments of Pathology and Microbiology, Genetics Cell Biology
and Anatomy, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, Academic
Affairs, Office of Graduate Studies, BHECN, and Public Relations

ADDITIONAL THANK YOU
to all of the participating school districts, their
administrations, counselors, teachers, and staffs.

We Stay Connected

• Annual reunions for all UNMC High
School Alliance alumni
• Facebook page “UNMC High School Alliance”
• Summer research opportunities at UNMC
after completion of the program
• Survey of former students: “Where are you now?”
• Two newsletters throughout the year—each
one featuring an alum of the program